Gronkowski gets 1-game suspension

Could lose more than $281,000 for game pay if he challenges the suspension and loses the appeal | **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

THE BUFFALO NEWS

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High court lets 3rd version of travel ban go into effect

By Adam Liptak
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the third version of the Trump administration's travel ban to go into effect while legal challenges against it continue. The decision was a victory for the administration after its mixed success before the court over the summer, when justices considered and eventually dismissed disputes over the second version.

The court's brief, unsigned orders Monday urged appeals courts to move swiftly to determine whether the latest ban was lawful. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia M. Sotomayor said they would have denied the administration's request to allow the latest ban to go into effect.

The court's orders mean that the administration can fully enforce its new restrictions on travel from eight nations, six of them predominantly

See **Ban** on Page A5

Lawyer for Trump says president, by definition, can't obstruct justice

By Sari Horwitz and Philip Rucker
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON – The brazen assertion Monday by one of President Trump's lawyers that a president cannot be found guilty of obstruction of justice signaled a controversial defense strategy in the wide-ranging Russia probe, as Trump's political advisers are increasingly concerned about the legal advice he is receiving.

Inside: *TRUMP REDUCES SIZE OF FEDERAL LAND IN UTAH. PAGE A6*

Trump tweeted over the weekend that he knew that then-national security adviser Michael T. Flynn had lied to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador before firing him in February – and before then-FBI Director James B. Comey said Trump asked him to be lenient while investigating Flynn. Experts said the president's admission increased his legal exposure to obstruction of justice charges, one of the core crimes under investigation by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III.

But Trump lawyer John M. Dowd sought to excuse the president's tweet in part by telling Axios and NBC News on Monday that the "president cannot obstruct justice because he is the chief

See **Obstruct** on Page A5

Derek Gee/Buffalo News

With city skyline as backdrop, soon-to-be-commissioned USS Little Rock awaits arrival of dignitaries in Lake Erie on Monday before entering Buffalo River and docking at Canalside.

Boulevard Mall escapes foreclosure through sale

By Stephen T. Watson
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Boulevard Mall, the oldest enclosed shopping mall in the region, has a new owner after Forest City Enterprises gave up control rather than go through a foreclosure.

But there aren't likely to be any changes for shoppers and tenants in the near future.

Forest City, which was facing a legal seizure after defaulting on its $92 million loan, turned over the deed on the Amherst mall to LNR Partners. The Miami-based company, which is known as a "special servicer," held the mortgage on the property on behalf of Wall Street investors, and had been negotiating with Forest City to collect on the troubled loan.

Now, LNR will try to preserve and maximize the property's value for those investors until it can resell the mall to a new owner and recoup its losses on the loan.

Zamias Services, a national

See **Mall** on Page A6

'Back With a Vengeance,' next Little Rock puts on a show

By Lou Michel
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

A rock song blared from the public-address system of the Navy's new, soon-to-be-commissioned USS Little Rock as it made its way to Canalside.

The emphatic "I'm back" lyrics of AC/DC's raucous "Back in Black" filled the cold early December air Monday as the ship, the length of a football field, approached Buffalo.

"We chose it because the motto of our ship is 'Back With a Vengeance,'" said Little Rock Cmdr. Todd Peters. "It was intended to give the crowd a show. We want the crowd to remember the day the USS Little Rock arrived."

Mission accomplished.

Onboard, the ship's crew performed a delicate dance.

See **Ship** on Page A10

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The new Little Rock, in words and pictures

See more photos about the visit of the Navy's newest ship to Buffalo on the Picture Page, Page E6, and online at BuffaloNews.com.

Inside: *VETERAN OF THE ORIGINAL LITTLE ROCK WELCOMES THE NEW SHIP. PAGE A10*

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